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ACTION AID-00

RELEASED IN PART

B1, 1.4(D)

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00	WHA-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	EAP-00	EB-00	EUR-00	VC-00	H-00	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-00	VCE-00	AC-00	NSAE-00	OIG-00	ACE-00
	FMPC-00	SP-00	IRM-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	NFAT-00
	SAS-00	/000W					

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P 252053Z JUN 04  
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6796  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY  
HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL PRIORITY  
NSC WASHDC PRIORITY  
USINT HAVANA PRIORITY

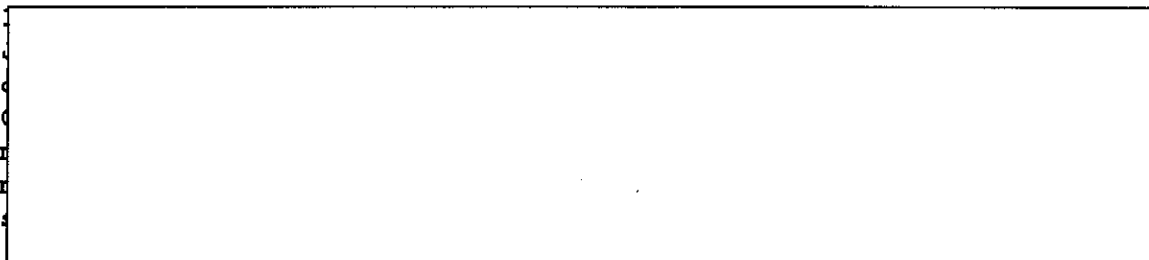
C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 002088

NSC FOR CBARTON  
USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD  
USAID DCHA/OTI FOR RPORTER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/27/2014  
TAGS: PGOV, KDEM, VE  
SUBJECT: THE CHAVEZ, CARTER, CISNEROS RUMOR MILL

Classified By: ACTING POLITICAL COUNSELOR MARK WELLS FOR REASONS 1.4 (d  
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SUMMARY  
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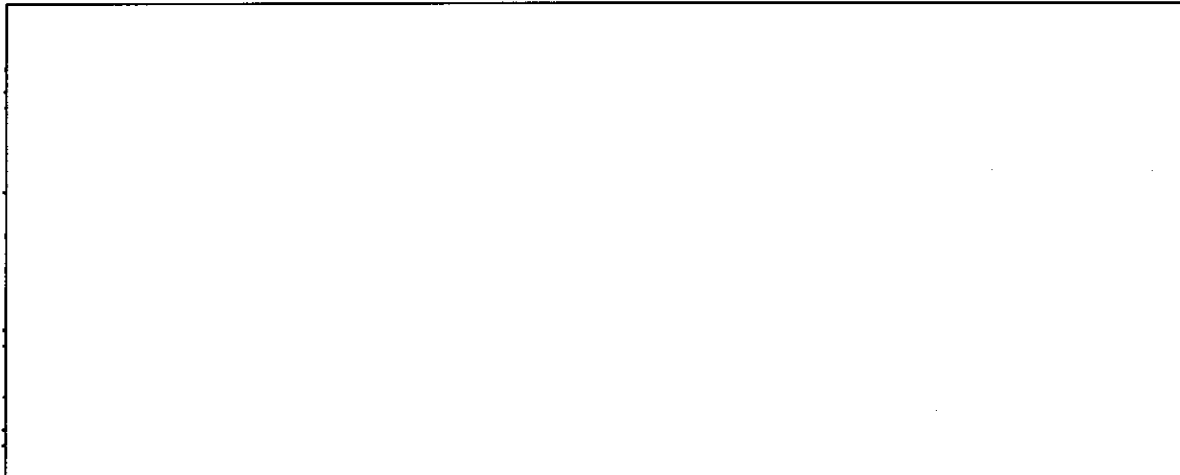
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## ----- THE OFFICIAL STORY -----

2. (U) The meeting between Chavez, Carter and Cisneros was to have been conducted with total secrecy. Cisneros and Carter flew in on Cisneros' private jet to the VIP area of Simon Bolivar International airport outside of Caracas. However, an individual at the airport recognized Carter and alerted the media. The media followed Carter to Fuerte Tiuna and broke the story.

3. (U) The Carter Center released an official press statement on June 19, saying that the meeting between Chavez, Carter and Cisneros had been an attempt to establish a dialogue that would ensure the most appropriate climate for a constitutional process in Venezuela. During the June 20 edition of "Alo Presidente," his weekly television broadcast, Chavez commented that this meeting was the first step toward creating a plan to cooperatively combat poverty and improve health and education opportunities following the August 15 referendum. Chavez also assured the audience that he had not been negotiating secret deals with the opposition. On June 22, Cisneros issued a press release that, in general terms, corroborated these two stories.

## ----- THE RUMOR MILL -----



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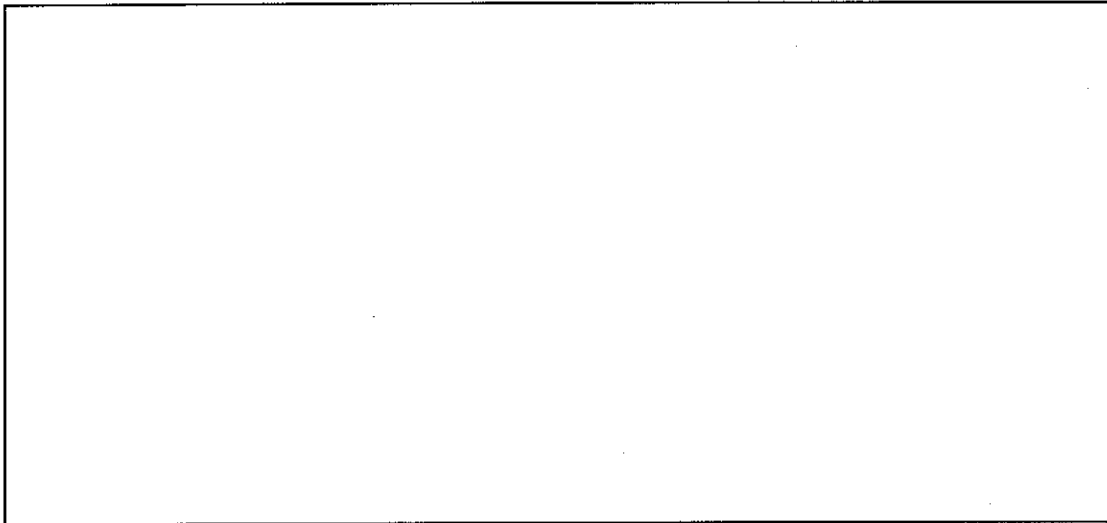
5. (U) Caracas daily "Ultimas Noticias" reported that the Chavistas are calling Chavez a traitor for meeting with Cisneros. Caracas daily "Tal Cual" pointed out that if Chavez is willing to meet with a person the GOV has repeatedly called "the lead coup plotter," the door has been opened for meetings with the Democratic Coordinator. Both

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speculated that this meeting is perhaps the first step toward a sustainable democratic dialogue in Venezuela.

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